



February 21, 2023

Members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
450 Columbus Blvd.
Suite 1
Hartford, CT. 06103

Dear Committee Members,

Bozzuto's Inc. is a leading total service wholesale distributor of food and household products to retailers in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Established in 1945, and based in Cheshire, Connecticut. Bozzuto's is one of Connecticut's largest privately owned companies, employee over 1,000 associates.

For over 75 years, Bozzuto's has provided goods and services to independently owned retailers in the North East and Mid-Atlantic with customers from Maine to Maryland. As a company, we understand our customers' success depends on our effectiveness and efficiencies as procurement, distribution and transportation specialists.

On behalf of Bozzuto's Inc, I would like to submit testimony in opposition to the recent implementation of the Highway Use Tax, also commonly referred to as "HUT". As a wholesale distributor of food and household product the Highway Use Tax "HUT" will add additional operating cost and serve to create a significant disadvantage to our organization compared to our wholesale distributors who don't reside within the state of Connecticut.

This tax has the potential to impact future growth and investment and future jobs for companies that are required to absorb the long term and burdensome cost. The alternative is to attempt to pass this cost on to our customers, who are already laden with a 9.9% increase in food prices in 2022 and anticipated additional increase of 7.1% in 2023 according to the Economic Research Service. In an extremely competitive wholesale distribution environment it puts our company at a disadvantage against other companies that provide the same service that do not reside within the State.

While we oppose the current Highway Use Tax "HUT", we do support the need for improvements with our infrastructure and understand the need to maintain the roads and bridges throughout the State with use of the \$5.38 billion that was allocated through the federal Infrastructure and Investments and Jobs Act "IIJA" to the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Boyle

Craig A. Boyle



V.P. of Logistics